

BRITISH INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS FIRST DIVISION

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE vs ESSEX

A disappointing first trip to Nottinghamshire for the squad with only the Ladies 'A' coming away victorious.

The **Ladies 'B'** earned a well-deserved draw; Chelmsford's Pauline Donat (16.44) won the opening set 3-2, followed by two Essex losses from Kelvedon's Dawn Kennedy and Nicky Bewick; before Chelmsford's Wendy Reader (17.74) won the 4th set and the lady of the match award, to level the score. Eastwood's Sharon Wakeling won the 5th set 3-2 to give Essex the lead, but Karen Breen (Clacton) was unlucky to lose the 6th set 3-2.

The **Men's 'B'** didn't start well, losing the opening two sets from Tilbury's Michael McCombe and Springfield's Robbie Turner. It was Springfield's youngster Joe Russell that got Essex's first set; however Southend's Steve Haggerty lost out in the 4th set. Chelmsford's Andrew Kateley and Southend's John Costigan pulled Essex back level with 3-2 and 3-1 wins respectively. The second half started the same way with Essex losing sets 7 & 8 from Phil Brewster (Springfield) and Lennie Holmes (Rayleigh Rascals). Brightlingsea's Mike Hancocks (25.47) won 3-0 on his debut and laid claim to the man of the match award; but only Springfield's other youth player, Jamie Peetoom (23.48), was triumphant in the final three-sets, with Basildon's Malcolm Clark & Brightlingsea's Bryan Margerison both losing out.

Therefore going into Sunday's 'A' games, Essex trailed 10-8, and the **Ladies 'A'** gave it their all to give Essex as much chance as possible to win the weekend. Kelvedon's Stacey Ellis (17.68) got the ball rolling winning 3-0, followed by Canvey's Donna Gleed (22.69) winning 3-1 and the lady of the match award. Chelmsford's Sue Baker lost the 3rd set before Canvey's Leanne Peetoom (17.41) won her first 'A' game 3-2; Steph Hewson (Canvey) lost the 5th set; however, Kelvedon's Lynn Kelly (17.60) continued her good form this season winning 3-1 and tying the scores level overall.

The **Men's 'A'** lost the opening set 2-4 from Craig Vickers (Springfield) and then took sets 2 & 3 by Southend's Daniel Day (28.33) and Tilbury's Wayne Gleed (25.47) to give Essex the lead since Saturday's lady's game. However, this was short lived as Nottinghamshire reeled off 3 consecutive sets with Alan Collins (Brightlingsea) losing 4-0; Chelmsford's Matt Garrett losing 4-3 and Canvey Starr's Phil Halls losing 4-1. Essex come fighting straight back with big wins from Brentwood's Steve Johnson (31.19) 4-2 and claiming the man of the match, and from Captain Darren Peetoom (29.48) winning 4-2 and pulling Essex level once more. That was Essex's last win as the remaining 4-set's all went Nottinghamshire's way; Southend's Wayne Bloomfield lost out 4-3; Tilbury's Richie Howson lost 4-2; Southend's Paul Marsh lost out 4-1; and Brightlingsea's Tony Osborne was beaten 4-0 by Nottinghamshire's man of the match Andy Kerr with a 33.97 average, which was the highest in BICC Division 1 stats.

Next up is a home match against Northamptonshire which will be the first time these two counties have met.